THE SWORD INTERVAL

BY BEN FLEUTER

Maybe it's jetlag, but it feels like sunset came early.

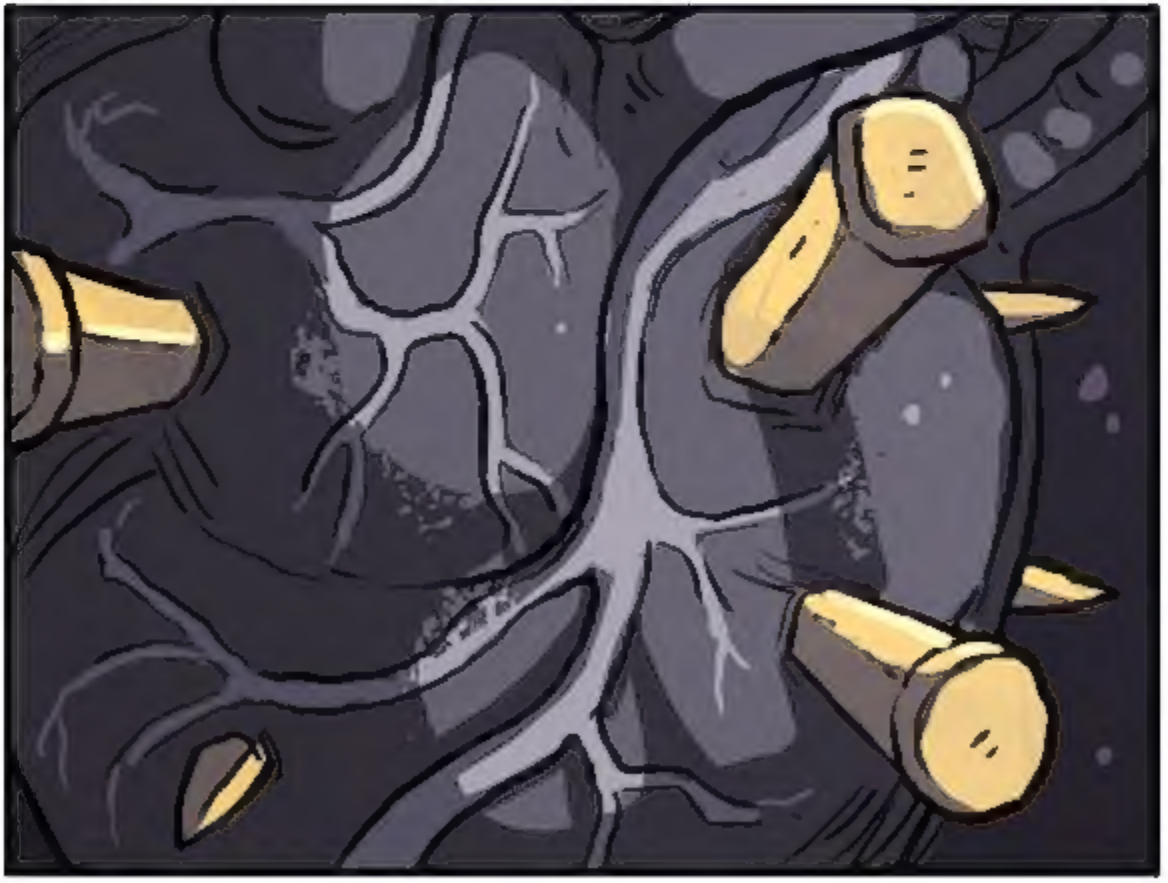
Shimizu, what do you think?
PHEIDIPPIDES
Does seem extra dark out tonight.

This mission... Operation Marathon. Lot of security for one transport. What exactly are we escorting?
Come on man, you know I can't tell you that.
You already know all you need. Lot of items with real bad mojo.
PHEIDIPPES
FUEL

You're gonna help us get them to a black site where they'll never hurt anyone again.

TH-
THUMP
TH-
THUMP

TH-THUMP

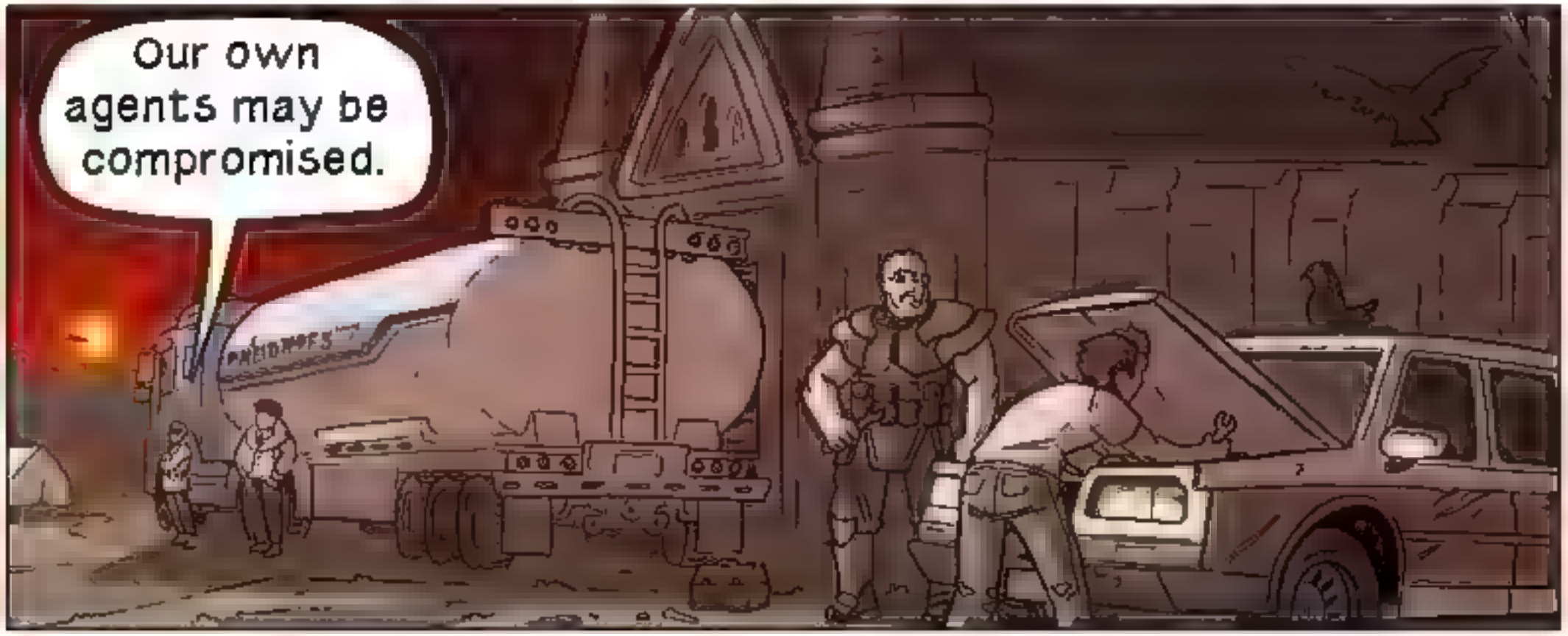


Hm. If you're suspecting an attack, why just the outside help? Am I wrong Li, or are you the only human Atlas agent on the job?
Recalled from overseas just for this.
That so?

...You ever heard of the Stygian Medusa, Shimizu?

Couple months ago she struck HQ. Got into a containment ward using this creepy bodily control magic. Anyone who's hair she got ahold of is a liability.

That's why all you freelancers.


Our own agents may be compromised.

OFF WITH YA!

Hrph! Old station wagon ran fine this morning, until these damn birds set about ***watching*** me.
Bad omens, I tell you.

Woops!
Ouch!

You may be right.